

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 7-11 are all the claims pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 5, 6 and 12-15 are canceled. Further, claim 2 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 5, and claim 3 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 6.

In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objections and rejections, and allowance of the claims.

I. Allowed and Allowable Claims

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating the allowance of claims 1, 4 and 7-11, and the allowability of claims 5, 6, 13 and 15.

As shown in the foregoing amendments, claim 2 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 5, and claims 5, 12 and 13 have thus been cancelled. Accordingly, allowance of claim 2 is requested.

As shown in the foregoing amendments, claim 3 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 6, and claims 6, 14 and 15 have thus been cancelled. Accordingly, allowance of claim 3 is requested.

II. Objections

The Examiner objects to claims 13 and 15. As shown in the foregoing amendments, claims 13 and 15 are canceled, thus rendering the objections moot. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objections.

III. Claims 2, 3, 12 and 14 would not have been obvious

Claims 2, 3, 12 and 14 stand rejected due to alleged obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over previously cited Trossen in view of Ayres. As explained above, claims 2 and 3 are amended to include the allowable subject matter of claims 5 and 6, thus rendering their rejections moot. Further, claims 12 and 14 are cancelled as shown in the foregoing amendments, thus rendering their rejections moot. For at least the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the obviousness rejections, and allowance of the claims.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: May 28, 2007